

IHQ Bulletin



THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF MALTA, ISLAND HEADQUARTERS, E.S. TONNA STREET. FLORIANA VLT 16

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No 1/2003

Subscription Lm5.00 annually

January 2003

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FOR YOUR FEBRUARY DIARY

Thursday 20th February Founder's Day

POINTS TO REMEMBER

Discipline (as B.-P. saw it)

The 7th Scout Law – A Scout obeys orders of his parents, Patrol Leader, or Scoutmaster without question.

“Even if he gets an order he does not like he must do as soldiers and sailors do, and as he would do for his captain in a football team, he must carry it out all the same because it is his duty; and after he has done it he can come and state any reasons against it; but he must carry out the order at once. That is discipline.”

“In order to command obedience you have to understand how to obey. It is only by practicing your own self-discipline that you will see how to develop it in others.”

In “Scouting for Boys”, B.-P. dedicated all of Yarn 21 to Self-discipline and listed a number of values therein. These are fair play, honesty, loyalty, duty before all, discipline and obedience, humility, courage, fortitude, cheeriness and good temper. There is much to say about these values and each Scouter should find the time to read this Yarn and explore ways of passing on these dieing values. These are values which should be conserved and cultivated in our Scouts. Our Scouts must primarily learn to be disciplined through the example set by their leaders. Let us ask ourselves whether we are in fact doing this. The observance of discipline cannot be acted out, we cannot pretend to be disciplined but we must really believe in it. Discipline, in our case, is not the military type but that which enriches our character.

1. SOUTH DISTRICT CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

by the South District Service Team

For the second consecutive year, the South District took part in the Christmas Activities held by the Community Chest Fund. As per last year the District participated with a choir of 64 cub scouts coming from all District packs and the

massed bands made up of 80 musicians coming from all the five bands within the District namely Cospicua, Fgura, Marsa, Zejtun and Zurrieq.

Preparations started in September and a number of rehearsals were carried out both by the choir and the massed band. The choir under the co-ordination of Mr Saviour Borg GSL Xghajra, held its weekly rehearsals at the Paola Scouts HQ. Thanks go to Ing. Mario Frendo GSL Paola for offering the HQ. The massed bands were under the co-ordination of Mr Martin Bonnici South District Service Team and a committee made up of all Bandleaders. The weekly rehearsals were carried out at the Rinella Scout Centre and then transferred to Xatt ir-Risq, Vittoriosa. From these lines we would like to thank the Vittoriosa Mayor Mr. John Boxall for granting the permit for the use of the quayside without any hesitation. Also we would like to thank Mr. Charles Caruana for quickly stepping in at the last minute to open the IHQ Hall to carry out one rehearsal, due to bad weather.

Both events were held on Saturday morning December 21st 2002. All groups started to gather at Freedom Square at around 10:15 hrs. After last minute briefing between all Drum Majors and the District Service team escorting the band, all musicians took their positions accordingly. At 10:50 hrs the massed bands under the direction of Senior Drum Major Kurt Caligari and Drum Majors L. Castillo, G. Gatt, L. Farrugia, marched from Freedom Square, down Republic Street up to Pjazza Regina and back to Freedom Square. Upon arrival the massed bands did the dispersal and the choir took the centre stage erected in Freedom Square where they performed a set of Christmas carols.

Present on the day were Mr G. D' Anastasi Chief Executive, Mr E. L. Bonnici South District Commissioner and various parents, ex-scouts and supporters from the District. A very well done goes to all participants who contributed so that this event was turned into another massive success.

2. IHQ BULLETIN – New Policy

by Mr Mario H Calleja Commissioner Public Relations

So as to reduce the consumption of paper and to therefore do our bit to safeguard the environment, it has been decided as from February to put a nominal charge of Lm5.00 annually for those who wish to receive this Bulletin by post. This charge will only cover production and distribution costs. Each Group will continue to receive one copy free of charge and are urged to put this up on their notice boards. Those who wish to continue receiving the Bulletin by post are to advise the Administration Department. We take the opportunity to remind you all that those who wish to register their e-mail address to receive the Bulletin via Internet are to submit their e-mail address to Mr Mario H Calleja at mhc@waldonet.net.mt , as soon as possible.

3. NAXXAR GROUP HOSTS BOYS FROM ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL

circulated by Mr Teddy Farrugia GSL Naxxar Group

Following the success of last summer's camp in which four boys from St Patrick's School integrated with cubs and scouts for ten days of adventure, Naxxar Scouts Group, always fully supported by HSBC Cares for Children Fund, organised a three day winter camp from 13th to 15th December for children- boys and girls- coming from different church homes.

Thanks to the Fund, which sponsored this activity, and also provided many of the things used by the children, such as torches, eating implements, and transport, we are proud to say that this camp was also a hundred percent success. In fact both the Naxxar Scouts Council and the Fund got positive comments from the home directors.

We struck camp, which was held at the Mellieha Scouts quarters (an old army fort) at about 14.00 on Friday. The children mingled very easily and after settling in (dumping their things in the quarters more like it), went immediately to explore the place which also contains war-time shelters and bunkers.

During these three days the children had a bursting program. There was craft sessions, games, cook outs, singing, and even a Mass on the spot. Meal times were an experience in itself, as for lights out...leaves it to your imagination!!! Another really enjoyable event was the Saturday campfire when all the children had to prepare some stunt that is a play or song.

The worse part of this camp was saying good byes at the end. During these days all the children, as well as the leaders, had grown a deep sincere comradeship and there were evident tears in everybody's eyes when it was time to leave. However this was made easier by a firm commitment that this experience will be repeated in the very near future.

A big Thank you must go to all those who contributed to the success of this camp. As usual Doriette from Head Office did a superb job in leasing between all parties involved. A big Thank You to Josef as well who found the time to come and visit the camp, and spend a good hour with us...and this on a Sunday. And I must not forget to mention that we had the honour of being visited by the Chief Executive of the Malta Scouts Association Mr. Godwin D'Anastasi who promised to encourage other scout groups to organise similar activities, which is also HSBC Cares for Children Fund's wish. There are also many other people who contributed to the success of this activity: to all these, A very Big Thank You. Well done and keep the good work up.

4. CENSUS RETURNS

by Mr Mario H Calleja Commissioner Public Relations

Please note that the census returns are to be submitted by the end of February. For more details please refer to the Chief Executive's circular on the subject.

5. NORTH DISTRICT LEADERS' TRAINING WEEKEND

by Mr Ray Darmenia North District Secretary.

The North District will be organizing a weekend training camp at Mellieha Fort between the 21st and the 23rd of March 2003. All those who are interested are to contact Mr Edward Vella and are advised to keep this weekend free.

6. AWARDS TO SAN ANTON SCHOOL GROUP

by Mr Joe Briffa GSL San Anton School Group

Last summer a group of scouts from the San Anton School Group obtained the Bronze Medal and Bronze Cross of the Royal Life Saving Society. During the course, they placed second overall from amongst the participants. They were awarded a trophy that was presented at a ceremony held at St. Patrick's, Sliema, on Friday 6th December. Well done.

7. EDEN LEISURE GROUP IMAX OFFER

circulated by Mr Mario H Calleja Commissioner Public Relations

Films shown in IMAX theatres are designed to educate and enlighten as much as they are to entertain. They offer educators a powerful teaching tool and provide all students with unique and exciting opportunities to explore new worlds and new ideas. IMAX films focus on a broad range of subjects covering the environment, nature, geography, the arts, technology and space exploration, to name a few. Through IMAX new Knowledge to your students will be presented in a powerful and popular

medium, and it will inspire thoughtful and lively discussions. Your group can enjoy the latest blockbuster or IMAX® presentation and save. School and tour groups, sports teams, church groups, recreation clubs and community groups can call beforehand and book their tickets early. Special concession discounts are also available

For more information about our various programs, films and packages - including Group Rates, Facility Rental and Private Screenings, Educational Programs, Corporate Programs and Custom Packages - please contact Ms Yeda Spiteri Thomas Group Marketing & Sales Executive directly via e-mail on y.spiteri@edenleisure.com Tel 23710115 Mob 79051488 Fax 23710125

8. SCOUT ASSOCIATION ARCHIVES

by Mr John Brincat Deputy Chief Scout

The Deputy Chief Scout, Mr John Brincat, has been entrusted with the conservation of records, log books and other historical items lying in the lumber room at the IHQ with the hope of establishing a decent archives and library.

After sorting out what is worthless we found a quantity of surplus copies of past editions of periodicals such as Pathfinder and pamphlets which we are offering before disposal to those members interested to have a set or copies of missing ones.

It is intended to have decent show cases where valuable and rare scouting items (such as lapel badges and trophies) shall be kept for viewing. So we appeal to all members, present and past, to help by donating such items in order to succeed in forming a decent Scout Museum.

9. SOUTH DISTRICT CHRISTMAS GATHERING

by Mr Tony Cutajar South District Secretary

It has now become a Christmas custom for the South District Scouters, Group Council Members, Service Team and Commissioners to meet at Rinella Centre. In fact some hundred participants, including Scouters and their partners, turned up on the 20th December to greet each other for the festive season.

The gathering was addressed by the District Commissioner who conveyed his best wishes and thanked one and all especially the partners who patiently offer their ongoing support to their spouses throughout the year. The Chief Scout reciprocated and praised the District for its efficient running and the ever existing unity within it, encouraging them to keep up their spirit of cooperation. He was then invited to present the Thanks Badge to Mrs Maria Tagliaferro on behalf of her husband who for ten whole years gave an outstanding service to the Zabbar Group.

All present availed themselves of the occasion to wish each other a prosperous year full of shared adventure and mutual support. Thanks must go to Mr Marco Cassar, a leader of the Zabbar Group who provided five reliable Scouts to help in serving the eats and drinks.

10. FEATURES FOR THE IHQ BULLETIN

by Mr Mario H Calleja Commissioner Public Relations

All members of the Scout Association may submit features for the IHQ Bulletin. All are however advised to submit the write-up preferably in electronic format so as to reduce the time consuming stage of typing in the text. This may be either sent over the Internet or else on a floppy disc. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

11. NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS

by Mr Mario H Calleja Commissioner Public Relations

The Administration Department is in great need of assistance if it is to carry on providing a service to the Association. A number of persons are needed to form the Administration Team which would consist of an Administrative Assistant, who will need to be at IHQ every Tuesday and Thursday from 1730 hrs to 1900 hrs, and a team of three persons who will take care of copying, collating and folding the IHQ Bulletin when this is due. The vacancy of Administrative Assistant has now been filled by Mr Noel Muscat Doublesin but we are still looking the other three persons who may be from Venture Scout age upwards. These will only be needed once a month.

Ventures may take up the production of the IHQ Bulletin as part of the Venture Award under Creative Pursuits para (ii). The Venture team will need to produce the IHQ Bulletin for three months consecutively to qualify for this part. Should any unit be interested please contact the Commissioner for Public Relations.

12. ROUND MANUEL ISLAND CANOE RACE

by Mr Ray Darmenia North District Secretary

The Malta Canoe Association is holding its annual canoe Round Manoel on 30th March 2003. All those Scout Groups interested in the event are to contact Mr Vince Tanti on telephone 21371586 or MOB: 99249686

13. 1ST HAMRUN SCOUT GROUP CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME

By Mr Saviour Theuma Group Secretary

On Saturday 21st December 2002 the 1st Hamrun Scout Group organized its annual Christmas Programme. The Programme started at about 6.45 pm when the Group left our HQs to march through some of the adjacent streets. The Group returned to our HQs at about 7.00 pm. Awaiting the Groups return were the Chief Scout Mr. Vincent Cassar and the Chief Executive Mr. Godwin D'Anastasi, who were invited as guests of honour.

As usual the Group Patron H.E. the President of Malta was invited to this programme and as always notwithstanding his heavy schedule he found the time to honour us with his presence. On his arrival H.E. the President of Malta was welcomed by the Group Scout Leader, Mr. Leo Grima. The National Anthem was played by the Hamrun Group's Pipe and Drums Band. The President was then invited together with the Chief Scout to inspect the Group's contingent.

Awards were then given to the best Cub, Scout, Venture and Bandsman. An award was also given for the best gadget.

The second part of the programme consisted of displays by all the Group's Sections. The Band Section produced a display starting with the history of the Band's instruments followed by an excellent display of Band marches. The Cubs Section produced a musical display incorporating the Jungle Book characters with various other cartoon characters with the theme "Nobody should be an outcast because of his skin colour or believes". The Troop Section then erected a monkey bridge using various knots and lashings in less than eight minutes.

After colours down, the programme continued inside the Group's hall where the Venture Unit produced a comic play which brought a big smile to the numerous people present.

The whole programme came to an end at about 10.00 pm. Those present including the Chief Scout, and the Chief Executive had words of praise regarding the organization and the high standard of our Christmas Programme.

14. COSPICUA SCOUT GROUP CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

by Mr Victor Harmer GSL Cospicua Group

Christmas holidays started off with various patrol sleep ins at HQ. During these activities, scouts did badge work, bike hikes and various chores around the HQ.

Last Troop meeting Saturday before Christmas each Patrol had to prepare a Christmas delicacy for all the members. Leaders and all present were regaled with an assorted array of stuffed pastries, cakes, cookies, cocoanut balls, Christmas logs You name it, we had it. A very enjoyable afternoon.

Christmas Eve, the Group held a vigil with mass celebrated for all members, parents and friends. A 5 year old cousin of a member delivered a nice sermon before the celebration. The Leaders' guitar group led the congregation in carol singing. After the church service, all present were served with Maltese tradition drinks of Qastan Imboljuta, qaq ta' l-ghasel, mincepie, mqaret, pastizzi and brewed coffee containing anisette, ground cloves etc.... An evening very well spent.

To mark the last activity of the Group's 85th Anniversary, a reunion was organized on the 29th of December. A good number of old boys turned up to exchange stories of adventures gone by. At the start of the activity, S. Borg, GSL Xghajra, (an ex-Leader of the Group) presented a set of rosary beads made of rope and chestnuts (made during a scouting meeting) to Mr J Brincat Dep Ch Ex. as this year is dedicated to the rosary.

Mr Brincat in turn presented GSL V. Harmer with a video of Group activities dating between 1950 and 1965, which he shot on 8mm film and was recently converted by an ex-member. A TV screen showing this video turned out to be the centre of attraction during the morning. Refreshments were served to all present.

New Year's Eve, the Group Committee organized a dinner dance for 100 guests at a Birzebbugia restaurant. An enjoyable evening that spilt to the early hours of New Year with our Pipers playing Auld Lang Syne.

First weekend saw all the group members taking part in a 6 a side football tournament between the sections. All the kids had a day when they saw the Cubs scoring against the old boys.

The Ventures had their usual end of year AGM followed by refreshments and later on organized a meal at a village restaurant.

15. GONE HOME

by Mr Keith Sacco

It is with deep regret that we break the sad news of the passing away of Mr. Joe Saliba Sr, ex-GSL of the Qormi Scout Group and father of Mr. Joe Saliba Jr, present GSL of the same Group.

We were born to die and we die to live.
As seedlings of God, we barely blossom on earth;
We fully flower in heaven.
Russell M. Nelson

May he rest in peace. Please remember him in your prayers. Our sincere condolences to his family.